

CAPSULE SUMMARY

FOR

LOUIS L. BRUNETT HOUSE

605 ST. ANDREW'S LANE, FOUR CORNERS

Montgomery County Survey Prefix & Site Number: M-32/6

Approximate Building Date: circa 1864, altered 1939

Town or Vicinity in which Resource is Located: Four Corners

Access: Private

The Louis L. Brunett House, originally constructed ca. 1864, is a two-story frame dwelling remodeled as an eclectic Neoclassical Revival design in 1939. The Brunett house has local architectural significance as an important representative example of Neoclassical Revival design and illustrates the growing popularity of this style to mark economic success and social respectibility during Montgomery County's transition from a largely agrarian to an urban county during the first half of the twentieth century. E. Brooke Lee, World War I hero, real estate magnate and county political boss, was the president of the North Washington Realty Company which developed a series of family estates in the Silver Spring area during the interwar period. The Brunett house became the centerpiece of Lee's advertising campaign for his development of the farm into the "North Hills of Sligo."

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. M:32-6

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Louis L. Brunett House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 605 St. Andrews Lane ☐ not for publication

city, town Silver Spring ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name H. Madeline Carroll

street & number 605 St. Andrews Lane telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 1186

street & number 51 Monroe Street folio 313

city, town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M. 32-6

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Louis L. Brunett House, originally constructed ca. 1865, is a two-story frame dwelling remodeled as an eclectic Neoclassical Revival design in 1939. Situated on a hilly site above Sligo Creek, the house once commanded views across the fields of an approximately 93 acre farm. Today the house is located on a landscaped one-acre lot within the North Hills of Sligo Park neighborhood.

The Brunett House has an overall L-plan layout with a main two- and one-half story rectangular block (ca. 1861) remodeled in the Neoclassical Revival style (1939) with strong Greek Revival influences. On the northeast is a two-story garage wing with a shed roof connected to the main house by a one-story hyphen that forms a rear ell.

The core of the house is the main rectangular block, which has a side gable roof and a symmetrical five-bay facade oriented southwest toward the street. This principle elevation has a massive two-story pedimented portico with full length paired square columns with simple Doric capitals. Two matching applied pilasters frame the center bay. The cornice of the projecting porch has a boxed eave with a moderate overhang and beneath the cornice is a plain frieze band. The principal facade also has boxed eaves with a moderate overhang ornamented by scroll-like modillions.

The main facade has a central double door with a rectangular transom surmounted by a decorative wrought iron balcony. There are symmetrically aligned windows on the first and second stories with double-hung sash, two-over-two lights and double louvered shutters. The gable end facades of the house have smaller rectangular double hung sash with four-over-four lights and single louvered shutters. At the attic level there are windows with six-over-six lights with double louvered shutters. There are central entries at each gable end covered by simple porches with shed roofs supported by slim square columns. The garage ell and rear of the house have asymmetrically placed windows on the first and second floors with a variety of lights ranging from one-over-one to six-over-six. A corbeled brick chimney pierces the roof on the west side of the main structure and a modern chimney projects from the rear ell.

8. Significance

Survey No. M.32-6

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary: The Brunett house, originally constructed about 1864 and extensively renovated in 1939, has local architectural significance as an important representative example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. It also illustrates the growing popularity of this academic style to mark economic success and social respectability during Montgomery County's transition from a largely agrarian to an urban county during the first half of the twentieth century.

Louis Brunett, a Virginia native of French ancestry with extensive business interests in Washington, acquired several parcels of land along the Ashton-Colesville Road (today Route 29/Colesville Pike) between 1860 and 1863 and built a two-story frame house with a center hall plan in this period on land once part of the grant known as "Girl's Portion." G. M. Hopkins noted that Brunett settled in Montgomery County in 1861 and for most of the remainder of the century he prospered on his 93.6 acre farm. Brunett died in 1895 and left the property to his wife and children. Vincent Brunett, the last surviving son, sold the farm to the North Washington Realty Company in 1930.¹

E. Brooke Lee, World War I hero, real estate magnate and county political boss, was the president of the North Washington Realty Company, which developed a series of family estates in the Silver Spring area during the interwar period. The "Colonel," was a close associate of Governor Albert C. Ritchie and worked as his legislative agent during his successive terms between 1920 and 1935. Soon after his election to the House of Delegates in 1926, Lee became House Speaker. Lee's political influence in Annapolis made him a formidable power in county politics and land development. He was a strong advocate of planned suburban growth in the county facilitated by zoning. Lee was also instrumental to the establishment of both the Washington Sanitary Suburban Commission in 1916 and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1927. These agencies would control the development of the county's infrastructure including water, sewer and road systems that were essential to the county's urban growth.²

(Continued)

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Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE
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The Brunett house became the centerpiece of Lee's advertising campaign for his development of the farm into the "North Hills of Sligo." A photograph of the house was published in 1931 with a full page advertisement for the proposed suburb. The view indicated that the house had a full width Gothic Revival one-story veranda and a center gable, a common feature of I-houses of this type in Montgomery County. The language of the advertisement captured Lee's development philosophy by stating that the new suburb would be "extremely liveable, healthful community--protection from undesirable influences is assured by the proximity of Sligo Park and wise restriction..."³

The Brunett house served as the headquarters for the real estate company's sales personnel in the 1930s. However, the Great Depression took its toll on Lee's real estate business as expensive houses and lots intended for affluent suburbanites went unsold and the bank eventually foreclosed on the North Hills of Sligo properties. In 1939 Walter B. Couper purchased the Brunett residence and tax records document a major increase in the property's value that probably accompanied the house's Neo-classical remodeling.⁴ The immediate grounds are extensively landscaped with boxwoods and azaleas.

The transformation from a modest Gothic Revival farmhouse to an imposing Neoclassical residence was far more significant than a simple stylistic updating. There was an intent to create a distinctive Neo-classical revival style house. This building, in its plan, form and stylistic decorative features, reflects a significant overlay of the county's nineteenth century building traditions and early twentieth century popular culture embodying the county's transformation into a major suburban region bordering the nation's capital just prior to World War II.⁵

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M 32-6

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Bushong

organization M-NCPPC date June, 1994

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone (301) 495-4570

city or town Silver Spring state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7400

Continuation Sheet
M: 32-6 Louis L. Brunett House

Endnotes

1 Anne W. Cissel, "Girl's Portion . . . The Land." Report by Historic Research Associates, January 1992. Copy on File at the M-NCPPC; see also G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery, Maryland (Philadelphia, G. M. Hopkins, 1879), 17-18.

2 For Lee's influential career in Montgomery County's suburban development, see Ray Eldon Hiebert and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), 262-265; and George H. Calcott, Maryland and America, 1940 to 1980. (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1985), 22-24.

3 Maryland News, June 12, 1931.

4 Anne W. Cissel, "Girl's Portion . . . The Land." Report by Historic Research Associates, January 1992. Copy on File at the M-NCPPC.

5 For a discussion of historical and architectural trends in the period of 1920-1940 in Montgomery County, see Andrea Rebeck, "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century." Unpublished report, Maryland Historical Trust and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, 1987. The shift in the county's economic base is discussed in Richard K. MacMaster and Ray E. Heibert, A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. (Rockville, MD: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), 302-303.

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological Development Periods: Modern Period - A. D. 1930-Present
- c) Historic Period Themes: Architecture
- d) Resource Type: Farmhouse

Continuation Sheet
M: 32-6 Louis L. Brunett House
Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Page 9.1

Unpublished Sources

Montgomery County Historical Society Vertical File and Photographs.

Anne W. Cissel, "Girl's Portion . . . The Land." Report by Historic Research Associates, January 1992. Copy on File at the M-NCPPC.

Rebeck, Andrea. "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century." Unpublished report, Maryland Historical Trust and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, 1987.

Published Sources

Calcott, George H. Maryland and America, 1940 to 1980. (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1985), 22-24.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland.** Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. **Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery Maryland.** Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879. (Library of Congress; Rockville Public Library)

Martenet, Simon J. **Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County.** Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. (Library of Congress)

Maryland News, June 12, 1931.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM
LOCATIONAL MAP

SURVEY NO.: M 32/6
PROPERTY NAME: Girl's Portion/
Carol Brunett House
TOWN: Silver Spring
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY
QUADRANGLE: Kensington, MD



M-32-6

LOUIS Brunett Hae

MONT GOMERY CO., MD

EDSON BEALL

NOV. 1993

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW NORTHEAST

1 OF 4



M-32-6

LOUIS BRUNETT HSE.
MONTGOMERY CO.

605 ST. ANDREWS DR.
SILVER SPRING
MONTGOMERY CO.

EDSON BEALL
NOVEMBER 1993

NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
VIEW SOUTHWEST
(NE ELEV.)

2 OF 4



M-32-6

Louis Brunett Hie
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

605 ST. ANDREWS
S. S.
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

EDSON BEALL
NOVEMBER 1993
MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW
NORTH
(SOUTH ELEV.)

3 OF 4



M-32-6

LOUIS Brunett Hre

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

EDSON BEALL

NOV. 1993

MARYLAND SHPO

4 OF 4

605 ST. ANDREWS

S.S.

MONTGOMERY CO.

VIEW

SOUTHEAST

(NW ELEV)